

KARO-ECHO Minutes February 12, 2018

Kensington Community Center (Rm 3)

Meeting started on time at 7:30 PM.

KK6NDF, Hal, presiding as president.

Attendees:

KM6CXI (Mike), KK6SRD (Ken), AC6ZF (Zenon) , KM6HBO (Jamuel), KC6OBK (Marian), K6KOP (Jerry), KK6NDF (Hal), KI6KNP (Kevin), NI6A (Don).

The agenda was unavoidably rendered unavailable.

Pursuant, a review of the Karo-Echo radios tour led by of 9 installed radios and antennas were visited and tested the 5 in El Cerrito and 4 installations in Kensington. All sites were visited except Harding School, the EC Senior Center, and Tassajara Park.

Station 71 and station 65 have extra radios in storage. Hal presented a spread sheet detailing the installations. It was mentioned that a uniform maintenance log should be maintained at each location. Jerry and Marian had been doing a excellent job in maintaining these sites.

Kevin, KI6KNP, mentioned that he would pursue access to the Tassajara Park antenna installation. Don mentioned that the radio and antenna at the Senior Center should be repurposed before the Senior Center closes in June.

A discussion ensued as to the functionality of each site and purpose. KC6OBK, Marian, stated that the existing installed sites were needed to take the load off the EOC and sent to a distant relay point, then the messages would go to the EOC.

NI6A, Don, mentioned that such a plan would only double up the congestion on the tactical frequency and it would also increase new errors via the relay.

K6KOP, Jerry, mentioned that any station who could communicate with the EOC direct should do so. Everyone agreed.

Further, KC6OBK, Marian, brought up the need to coordinate HAM with FRS. Hence, the comm plan should coordinate with FRS if the CERT Area Coordinators request. K6KOP suggested that CERT area coordinators meet together. KM6CXI stated that there is not guidelines or awareness regarding radio communications. There was a further in-depth discussion regarding CERT's organizational structure. The CERT training has no guidelines regarding CERT coordination/procedures as a group. EL Cerrito either takes the ball and runs with it, or just leave it up to its current unorganized unstructured state.

AC6ZF, Zenon, described that as a former CERT Area Coordinator there was no guidance from the EOC or in the CERT training regarding communications. Rather it is was totally ignored.

The CERT organizational problems took up more than 2/3rds of the meeting. Kevin, KI6KNP said that he would send out an email to schedule a CERT Area Coordinator's meeting to discuss communications and other CERT problems. It was decided that it is not Karo-Echo's responsibility to solve CERT's internal problems, as we have to focus on our own problems to solve in order to maximize our effectiveness.

KK6NDF, Hal appointed KC6OBK, Marian, and NI6A (Don) to come up with a simulated emergency test (SET) in the near future.

Marian being an advocate of manning the fixed city installations

Don being an advocate of direct (relay only if necessary). Also what would be the hams role between areas (inter-area).

A discussion on the failed outreach to EC/K hams after two previous mailings to all the hams in EC/K and one actual meeting which again was not followed through.

Hal, wanted to test whether the 50 watt installed stations (all 9) in EC/K could communicate with the EOC. Don suggested that it would be bad for motivation if we asked operators to participate in a useless drill, as radio wise, there is no technical reason why they would not. Don proposed a discussion regarding the tactical importance of Harding School, Hilltop, the Senior Center, or the Kensington Community Center (Youth Hut). Marian speculated that they may be serve as gathering points pending the approval of the individual CERT Area Coordinator. This again triggered a long discussion regarding CERT's lack of organizational integrity.

The Minutes were approved (Jerry abstained stating that he could not access the PDF).

Hal proceeded with the agenda. Don protested that he did not receive the agenda email and the agenda was not made available at the meeting. Jamuel checked the headers of the email and reported that Don was not in the agenda email header; hence he did not receive the agenda.

Don, asked Hal to appoint a net manager.

Duties: Arrange for future net control stations.

Arrange and improve the Net format.

Establish Net procedures/protocols.

Arrange for net exercises, education, and drills in coordination with the EC.

Ensure that all NCS have an outdoor antenna at the minimum.

Send reports to the emergency coordinator (EC) detailing the check-ins, the total time of the net, the amount of all formal written traffic, if any.

Hal asked for volunteers; but there were no takers.

Don made a motion that a Newsletter Manager was needed

Duties: Keep up-to-date and publish a monthly email roster and send out a monthly

newsletter to all members and check-ins containing the KARO-ECHO minutes and all relevant KARO-ECHO bulletins/announcements, frequencies, websites, and relevant data. The newsletter should be published no later than the preceding Wednesday before the Karo-Echo Monday evening meeting.

Motion was tabled by the president.

The proposed agenda item regarding recruitment and PR (outreach to new and old hams) was skipped.

The scheduled training agenda Item was also skipped.

Hal, gave an extensive report on the recent EBARC meeting. Nothing relevant to emergency or disaster comms were reported.

Although the agenda was less than half completed, the meeting was adjourned in an hour and twenty three minutes at 8:23 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Don, NI6A, substituting for Marlene who could not attend the meeting.